

Listing of Claims

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim-27 41, further comprising a pump to urge the liquid from the containers to the outlet.

29. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim-28 41, wherein each branch has a solenoid valve in communication with said controller to control the flow of liquid.

30. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim-29 41, wherein said main branch passage comprises a manifold.

31. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim-30 41, further comprising a gas exchanger for gaseous exchange between the ambient atmosphere and the containers.

32. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 31, wherein said gas exchanger comprises a filter unit.

33. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim-30 41, wherein said liquid dispensing system comprises a penetrater and a coupler.

34. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim-33 41, wherein said controller is comprised of a flow monitor.

35. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 34, wherein said flow monitor is located in line with said main passage.

36. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 35, wherein said flow monitor is integral with said pump.

37. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 35, wherein said flow monitor is located in parallel to said main passage.

38. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~33~~ 41, wherein said controller comprises a timer.

39. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 36, wherein said controller is in electronic communication with said monitor.

40. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~39~~ 41, wherein said currency acceptor and processor is in electrical communication with said controller.

41. (Currently Amended) A currency operated liquid dispensing machine for liquid retained in a plurality of removable and replaceable containers, said liquid dispensing machine comprising:

a cabinet;

a suitably selected holder housed in the cabinet, for releasably retaining the plurality of containers;

a furcated passage comprising a main passage, an open end to define an outlet and a plurality of branches, each terminating in an inlet, said furcated passage to permit fluid communication between the plurality of containers and said outlet;

said outlet being in communication with the ambient atmosphere, said outlet located to permit feeding of the liquid from the containers to said outlet;

a plurality of terminally located liquid dispensing systems for releasably coupling said inlet to a container to permit the flow of liquid;

a dispensing valve to stop and start the flow of liquid;

a controller to determine the flow of liquid through said furcated passage and to selectively actuate said dispensing valve;

a currency acceptor and processor for communication with said controller, wherein liquid is dispensed from said currency operated liquid dispensing machine in a metered volume in response to input of a selected value of currency; and

~~The dispensing machine of claim 40, further comprising~~ a surge buffer, said surge buffer located to dampen surging of the liquid from said outlet.

42. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 41, wherein said dispensing valve is a check valve.

43. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~42~~ 41, wherein the holder comprises an at least one rack for releasably retaining the containers.

44. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 43, further comprising a collar for receiving each container, said collar being releasably housed on said holder.

45. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~44~~ 41, wherein said cabinet is refrigerated.

46. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~44~~ 41, further comprising a counterbalance.

47. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~46~~ 41, further comprising a water presence sensor.

48. (Previously Presented) The dispensing machine of claim 47, further comprising an alarm system to indicate when said dispensing machine is empty.

49. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~47~~ 43, wherein said rack is a shelf that is rotatably mounted to said cabinet to permit swinging of said shelf.

50. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim ~~49~~ 41, wherein said pump is a peristaltic pump.

51. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim-50 41, further comprising a bottle presence sensor.

52. (Currently Amended) A currency operated liquid dispensing machine for liquid retained in a plurality of removable and replaceable containers, said liquid dispensing machine comprising;

a cabinet;

a suitably selected holder housed in the cabinet, for releasably retaining the plurality of containers;

a furcated passage comprising a main passage, an open end to define an outlet and a plurality of branches, each terminating in an inlet, said furcated passage to permit fluid communication between the plurality of containers and said outlet;

said outlet being in communication with the ambient atmosphere, said outlet located to permit feeding of the liquid from the containers to said outlet;

a plurality of terminally located liquid dispensing systems for releasably coupling said inlet to a container to permit the flow of liquid;

a dispensing valve to stop and start the flow of liquid;

a controller to determine the flow of liquid through said furcated passage and to selectively actuate said dispensing valve. The dispensing machine of claim 27, wherein the branches of the furcated passage are in series, such that in use, one container is substantially drained before the next container begins to drain; and

a currency acceptor and processor for communication with said controller, wherein liquid is dispensed from said currency operated liquid dispensing machine in a metered volume in response to input of a selected value of currency.

53. (Currently Amended) The dispensing machine of claim 27 41, wherein said outlet is located to permit gravity feeding of the liquid from the containers to said outlet.